

SNC Reference Number
(enter if previously assigned)

080081

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Butte and Yuba

Applicant: High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

Project Title: Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Environmental Compliance

PROJECT GOAL

To complete the environmental compliance documental necessary to proceed with implementation of the Forbestown Shaded Fuel Break Project.

PROJECT SCOPE

We are seeking funds to conduct the pre-project due diligence, environmental compliance review (CEQA/NEPA), for our Forbestown Fuel Break Project. The U.S. Forest Service and the Yuba and Butte Fire Safe Councils have worked together to develop a comprehensive network of Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZs) around the communities at risk. The process brought together private landowners, community members and agencies to organize the DFPZs on mutli ownership locations for the optimum defense of communities at risk. This project is based on that collaboration and connects work on private lands in the Robinson Mill area below the Forbestown community to Forest Service Slapjack DFPZs. The project will use mastication to reduce the understory fuels and change the fire behavior on the lower flank of Forbestown. By treating on the down slope side of the road their will also be improved access safety during a fire. The four private landowners (Soper/Wheeler, CHY, Cermack, and Daley) will use mastication on the 631 acres to extend the fuel break two and half miles from the US Forest Service DFPZ.

The shaded fuel break is a tool that can be used by fire fighter to manage wildfire. The Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council installed a shaded fuel break along Jordan Road in 2004. During their recent fire this fuel break held for 1 ¼ miles. If it had not held it would have allowed the fire to go through the Concow community to their school. The fire fighters commented on how useful the shaded fuel break was is helping them fight the fire in that area. Yuba county also experienced the benefits of the Oregon Ridge Shades Fuel Break in stopping the Marysville Road fire in August 2006.

Given the extensive nature of the coordination of the extensive Forest Service's Slapjack project to this private land treatment, it will be a landscape approach to changing fire behavior. The fuel break and the coordinated under burns on the adjacent Forest Service lands will protect the Feather River from the water quality impacts of a wildfire. It will also protect the existing wildlife habitat.

When implemented, the fuel break will protect 962 homes, 2820 community members and a property value of \$78,327,289.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Community:

- Yuba County Board of Supervisors
- Butte County Supervisor Bill Connelly
- North Yuba Water District
- Browns Valley Irrigation District
- Yuba County Water Agency's Power System
- USDA Forest Service Plumas National Forest
- US Dept of the Interior
- Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection
- Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council
- Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Yuba Feather Historical Association
- Loma Rica/Browns Valley Community Services District
- Smartsville Fire Protection District
- Dobbins/Oregon House Action Committee
- Camptonville Community Services District
- Dobbins/Oregon House Fire Protection District
- Foothill Fire Protection District
- Lake Francis Grange #745

Landowners:

- Robert & Ethel Cermak
- The CHY Company
- Soper-Wheeler Company
- Daley Family
 - Leland Russell
 - David and Aris Whittier
 - Elizabeth Fletcher & W. Merle Russell

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate discussion with Yuba County on the CEQA/NEPA process	March 2009
Develop the scope of work for advertising for consultant to complete of the CEQA/NEPA documents	March 2009
Advertise for consultant	April 2009
Select consultant	May 2009
Consultant begins work on CEQA/NEPA document	May 2009
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	August 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	March 2010
Consultant completes work and presents documentation to Butte County for approval	September 2010
Complete Final Report/Final Payment Request to SNC	October 2010

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Advertising and hiring Consultant to complete CEQA/NEPA document	\$20,000
Grant Administration	\$2,000
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$22,000